



Lafayette City-Parish President's Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities

Monday, May 12, 2014

Meeting Minutes

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| Board Members Present: | Deborah Aymond, Nell Hahn, Virginia Jones, Marilyn Martin, Sara Robin Trahan |
| Guests in Attendance: | Donielle Watkins |
| Staff in Attendance: | Carlee Alm-LaBar, Katherine McCormick, Veronica Ryder |

1. Virginia Jones called the meeting to order.

A. Carlee Alm-LaBar introduced Katherine McCormick, Mr. Durel's assistant.

B. Deborah Aymond made a motion to accept the February, March and April meeting minutes. Sara Trahan seconded the motion and all were in favor.

2. Guest Speaker

Donielle Watkins, a representative from DREAMS Foundation of Acadiana, presented Unity Village Community, a Christian-based community where adults with special needs can live independently. Handouts were distributed to Board Members.

3. Correspondence

The Deaf Action Center Newstime for May and June 2014 was received. A copy is included in the agenda packet.

4. Old Business

A. Nell Hahn emailed Dee Stanley about the Taxicab Ordinance and Parking on Jefferson Street. An update should be available at next month's meeting.

B. Marilyn Martin reported that LATAN shipped equipment to the Affiliated Blind of Louisiana a couple of years ago. Unfortunately, ABL cannot locate the equipment. An invitation to the June meeting will be sent to ABL. LATAN representatives may also be invited.

C. Deborah Aymond attended the City of Lake Charles workshop entitled "Knocking Down Barriers." The event is similar to the current job fair. There were plenty of resources and vendors with booths. Merlyna M. Valentine, Executive Director of Elementary Schools for the St. Charles Parish Public Schools was the keynote speaker. Ms. Aymond expressed interest in hosting a similar event in April 2015.

5. New Business

A. Deborah Aymond announced the job fair will take place on October 1, 2014 at the Heymann Performing Arts Center. Ms. Aymond requested a waiver for the rental fee for the venue. Last year's job fair consisted of 55 employers and over 20 vendors. There were approximately 300 job seekers and of those 39 people were hired.

The LEDA job fair will take place on May 21 at the Cajundome Convention Center.

The next committee meeting will take place on June 19 at 10am at the LRS office.

6. Comments from the Public

Donielle Watkins suggested submitting awards applications to the school board before the end of the school year. Carlee Alm-LaBar will review deadlines and forward as needed.

Marilyn Martin announced that effective March 2014, federal contractors are required to hire minimum numbers of disabled workers. The target is 7 percent. Ms. Martin provided “Discussion Guide for the Campaign for Disability Employment’s “I Can” PSA” handouts.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the President’s Awareness Committee for Citizens with Disabilities is scheduled for June 9, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. in the Civil Service Testing Room on the first floor of City Hall.